



JAMES FENIMORE COOPER

Burlington County

Cooper was born on September 15, 1789 in Burlington, New Jersey. In 1802 he entered Yale where he excelled in Latin, but was expelled for a prank in his third year. He became an apprentice seaman in 1806, and in 1808 after a training voyage to Europe he was commissioned as a midshipman in the Navy where he continued to serve for three more years. At the age of thirty, in response to certain financial reverses, but also, according to legend, to his wife's challenge of his claim that he could write a better novel than the popular English one she was then reading, he began his literary career in 1820 with "Precaution," a conventional effort that despite its poor reception, encouraged him to continue writing. The years to follow brought many successful books including, "The Spy" (1821), "The Pioneers" (1823), "The Pilot" (1823), "The Last of the Mohicans" (1826), and "The Prairie" (1827). Cooper died in 1851.

Created - 1681 • Total Square Miles - 827.75 • 40 Municipalities • County Seat - Mount Holly